

ing to reports and information I have received, with new lodges added since that date, there is reason to believe a much larger increase will be shown at the end of this term.

The financial standing of the Order will be fully reported upon by the Grand Secretary, and I will simply state here that the gain in the assets of the lodges for the year has been \$2,919.12, and the total assets on the 31st. December, 1898, were the enormous sum of \$198,880.58, which is held in trust for 2,815 members.

Two Lodges have surrendered their Charters and merged with other Lodges to the advantage of all concerned, and two new Subordinate Lodges have been added to our list, viz.: One at Trout Lake City and one at Cranbrook. Encouragement has also been extended to Brothers at Fernie to organize a Lodge, and their application is expected.

Selkirk Lodge, No. 12, has been compelled to cease holding its meetings at Donald on account of its membership having nearly all removed to Revelstoke, where I have granted them permission to meet temporarily. They will suffer the loss of their fine hall at Donald, but they are not dismayed, and hope to be able to continue their Lodge at Revelstoke.

With the phenomenal growth of the towns in the interior of the Province as well as on Vancouver Island, a large field is opened for the institution of new lodges, but care should be exercised in granting Charters to avoid if possible the failure of any to continue after having been started.

The great calamity that befel the City of New Westminster affected our Order there and caused the mergerment of two of the Lodges, but of that I shall make special report.

REBEKAH BRANCH.

The Rebekah branch has not increased its membership in the jurisdiction during last year, but the D. D. G. M's. reports are encouraging.

Two new Lodges have been instituted—one at Carson City and one at Rossland—and in the near future applications may be expected from Ashcroft and from Sandon.

The Charter and effects of Esther Rebekah Lodge, No. 11, at Union have been returned to the Grand Lodge, the Lodge having been practically defunct for two years.

Bethel Rebekah Lodge, No. 7, of Mt. Pleasant, has also handed over its Charter and effects to the Grand Lodge.